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Attorney Docket No. S63.2B-10447-US01

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph 3 as follows:

[0003] A stent~~[[s]]~~ is typically delivered to a desired location in a bodily vessel via the use of a catheter. The stent, whether balloon-expandable, self-expanding or both, is disposed about a portion of the catheter and delivered via tortuous vessels to the target region of a vessel.

Please amend paragraph 11 as follows:

[0011] The special strut may be located at one end of the medical device, both ends of the medical device ~~strut~~ or between the ends of the medical device. In one embodiment, the special strut is located between the middle of the medical device and a location one third of the way along the medical device.

Please amend paragraph 15 as follows:

[0015] The strut having the region with the enlarged width may be located at one end of the stent, both ends of the medical device ~~strut~~ or between the ends of the stent. In one embodiment, the strut having the region with the enlarged width is located between the middle of the stent and a location one third of the way along the stent.

Please amend paragraph 18 as follows:

[0018] The central strut may be located at one end of the stent or both ends of the medical device ~~strut~~. In one embodiment, the central strut is located between the middle of the stent and a location one third of the way along the stent.

Please amend paragraph 26 as follows:

[0026] In one embodiment, the invention is directed to a medical device such as a stent, shown by way of example at 100 in Fig. 1a, comprising a plurality of interconnected struts 104. Struts 104 are arranged in the form of serpentine bands 108. Adjacent serpentine bands are connected to one another via one or more connecting struts 112, as shown in Fig. 1 or directly. In stents where connecting struts are used, the connecting struts may be straight or have one or

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more bends. It may be curved in a single region or curved over the entirety thereof. The connecting struts may be generally parallel to the longitudinal axis 102 of the stent as shown in Fig. 1a or may be non-parallel to the longitudinal axis. The ends of a connecting ~~struts~~ strut may be circumferentially aligned with one another as shown in Fig. 1a or may be circumferentially offset from one another. In the case where the serpentine bands are directly connected, portions of adjacent bands will abut one another.

Please amend paragraph 28 as follows:

[0028] The special strut is more radiopaque in an area bounded by the first and second regions than in the remainder of the strut. Radiopaque area 116 allows for easy location of the stent via fluoroscopy. As shown in Fig. 1a, the radiopaque area is circular. The radiopaque region may also be provided in other shapes, for example in the form of an oval or any other suitable shape. The additional radiopacity may result from a coating or other treatment of the radiopaque area or may simply result from the larger surface area of the strut in the radiopaque region. Using standard fluoroscopic techniques, stainless steel struts having widths of less than 0.005 inch are not easily visualized. If the radiopaque region ~~present~~ has a width in excess of 0.005 inch and desirably significantly in excess of 0.005 inch, it will be visible under fluoroscopy where the remainder of the strut is not visible.

Please amend paragraph 29 as follows:

[0029] In embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 1a, the radiopaque area 116 is sufficiently large that a plurality of struts 104b-i on either side of the special strut have shapes which are curved to complement one another and special strut 104a. The number of complementary struts that are necessary will depend on the size of the radiopaque region as well as on the width of the struts. As the size of the radiopaque region is increased and the width of the struts is decreased, more adjacent struts having complementary shapes will be required. As the size of the radiopaque region is decreased and the width of the struts is decreased, fewer adjacent struts having complementary shapes will be required. In the embodiment of Fig. 1a, the curvature of the struts adjacent the special strut decreases as the distance from the special strut increases.

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Please amend paragraph 36 as follows:

[0036] The length of some of the struts in the serpentine band may differ from the length of other of the struts in the serpentine band, as shown by way of example in Fig. 1f. In the stent of Fig. 1f, first serpentine bands 204, located at both ends of the stent, are connected to second serpentine bands 304 which in turn are connected to third serpentine bands 404. First serpentine bands 204 are longer than second serpentine bands 304 which are longer than third serpentine bands 404. Optionally, as shown in Fig. 1f, the number of peaks and troughs may differ between some of the bands. First serpentine bands 204 have fewer peaks and troughs than second serpentine bands 304 which in turn have fewer peaks and troughs than third serpentine bands 404. The stent of Fig. 1f has a 3-6-9-9-6-3 pattern. The number of peaks on adjacent serpentine bands changes from 3 to 6 to 9 to 9 to 6 to 3. The stent may also be provided in a ~~[[an]]~~ 3-6-9 pattern so that the number of peaks increases along the length of the stent. Patterns with other multiples of a 1-2-3-3-2-1 ratio of peaks are also within the scope of the invention. Bands with different numbers of peaks may be of the same total circumferential length or of different total circumferential length.

Please amend paragraph 38 as follows:

[0038] Fig. 1f also illustrates another inventive ~~feature, feature, namely that the~~ The regions of enhanced radiopacity may be disposed about the circumference of the stent, most desirably between the first and second ends of the stent. In the embodiment of Fig. 1f, the regions of enhanced radiopacity delineate the boundaries of the central region of the stent, the stent pattern differing in the central region from the pattern of the ends of the stent.

Please amend paragraph 46 as follows:

[0046] In another embodiment of the invention, the special strut may exhibit enhanced or altered Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) visibility in an area bounded by the first and second regions ~~than in relative to~~ the remainder of the strut. Such a region would allow for easy location of the stent via MRI. The region of altered MRI visibility may be circular, as in the case of the stent of Figs. 1a-f, oval or any other suitable shape. The enhancement to the MRI properties of the special strut in the desired region may be achieved by applying a contrast agent to the region

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of the special strut using any of the techniques described above for applying radiopaque material to a stent. As an example, gadolinium based contrast agents, for example, Gd-EDTA, as are known in the art, may be painted onto the desired region of the special strut. Other MRI contrast agents which may prove useful are disclosed in US 6,355,224 and US 6,350,431. The contrast agent may also be applied in the form of capsules containing contrast agent as disclosed in US 6,333,021.

Please amend paragraph 47 as follows:

[0047] The stent may have one special strut[[s]] or a plurality of special struts. In the one embodiment of the invention, two special struts are provided, one at each end of the stent. It is also within the scope of the invention for a special strut to be provided in any other location of the stent. For example, a special strut may be provided in the middle of the stent. In the case where the stent has a single special strut, typical locations for the strut include the ends of the stent and the middle of the stent. The struts adjacent the special struts have curvatures which complement the sides of the special struts. Struts on either side of the special strut have opposing curvatures.

Please amend paragraph 50 as follows:

[0050] The region of enlarged width may be radiopaque, may have enhanced or altered MRI properties or may have altered echographic properties. The region with the enlarged width may be on one or both ends of the stent ~~stems~~ and/or in the middle of the stent.

Please amend paragraph 84 as follows:

[0084] Further, it is within the scope of the invention for the particular features presented in the dependent claims ~~can~~ to be combined with each other in other manners[[.]] ~~within the scope of the invention~~ such that the invention should be recognized as also specifically directed to other embodiments having any other possible combination of the features of the dependent claims. ~~For instance, for purposes of claim publication, For example, the invention is directed to embodiments of the invention entailing any dependent claim which follows should be taken as alternatively written in a multiple dependent form from all prior claims which possess all~~

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~~antecedents referenced in such dependent claim if such multiple dependent format is an accepted format within the jurisdiction (e.g. each claim depending directly from claim 1 should be alternatively taken as depending from all previous claims). In jurisdictions where multiple dependent claim formats are restricted, the following dependent claims should each be also taken as alternatively written in each singly dependent claim format which creates a dependency from a prior antecedent possessing claim other than the specific claim listed in such dependent claim below (e.g. claim 3 may be taken as alternatively dependent from claim 1, claim 6 may be taken as alternatively dependent on any of claims 2-5; claim 8 may be taken as alternatively dependent on any of claims 1 and 3-7, etc.).~~